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AUTHOR Kottelwesch, Clemens
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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the publication of reports of library research progress in the Federal Republic of Germany and proposes problems of research publication that should be considered by the International Federation of Library Associations. Within Germany, four agencies, the German Library Association, the German Research Association, the German Library Institute, and the Association of German Libraries in conjunction with various study groups represent the bridge between research and practice. They publish information on library research through meetings, publication of journals, indexes, thesauri, bibliographies, etc.; however, a special bibliography of library research does not presently exist nor are there current abstracts of ongoing research projects. Reporting in periodicals is sketchy and often loses topical value because of late publication. Greater cooperation between existing agencies and a planned Research and Information Office is expected to help correct this situation. This problem is not unique to Germany and deserves the consideration of IFLA. Aspects for study include the determination of present national publication practices, compilation of a catalog of library research publications, development of regional and international cooperative publication and translation ventures, and the determination of international standards for research publications by subject field. (RAA)

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Optimum procedures for the publication of the results of library research

by

Clemens Köttelwesch

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1. The subject matter

From the beginning it should be explained that to define the subject of this paper more precisely it seems appropriate on the one hand to narrow down the problem and on the other hand to broaden it out. By narrowing down I would like you to understand that I shall be limiting myself to a description of the present situation in the Federal Republic of Germany and thus shall only be contributing one element to the subject as a whole; by broadening out I mean that it seems to me to be necessary not just to consider optimum procedures for dealing with the publication of the results of library research, but also to give publishing opportunities to each stage in the development of a research project. For the purpose of any library research must be to make it useful for library practice. In which case what is then urgently needed is the ability to make potential users of particular research findings aware as soon as possible of the individual stages of a project during the course of the research itself, so that any barriers placed in front of translating the results into practice can be removed. One should not underestimate the difficulties which stand in the way of achieving this. There exists for instance within every institution concerned with library research and also in every project director a certain shyness about granting their colleagues in the professional press any insight into a research procedure before the research has been concluded. Nor do the people taking part in projects as a rule show much liking for workshop discussions.

2. Institutions concerned with library research.

In the Federal Republic of Germany the following institutions are concerned with library research

- the Deutsche Bibliotheksinstitut in Berlin (German Library Institute)
- the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Association)
- the Deutsche Bibliotheksverband (German Library Association)
- the Verein Deutscher Bibliothekare (Association of German Librarians)
- various study groups.

The Deutsche Bibliotheksinstitut (DBI) in Berlin, which was formed in 1978 by the merger of the Arbeitsstelle für das Bibliothekswesen (Study Centre for Librarianship) and the Arbeitsstelle für Bibliothekstechnik (Study Centre for Library Technology), both parts of the Staatsbibliothek Preussischer

Kulturbesitz (State Library of Prussian Cultural Heritage), will doubtless in the future be able to contribute much towards improving publication of the results of library research (or interim reports). The monthly 'Bibliotheksdienst' is compiled within the Institute and is especially suitable for publishing brief news items, announcements, interim reports, in short anything concerning current information. In the Institute's 'Beiheften' (of which there have so far been more than 130) more comprehensive contributions for further discussion can be published. The 'Materialen' series, previously issued by the Arbeitsstelle für das Bibliothekswesen (AfB), should be continued as well: one could also fall back on them to help publish the appropriate documents. Many project reports also appear as separate monographs in various publishing houses.

The 'Fachbibliographische Dienst' should also in future be pursued with more attention than has hitherto often been the case.

In what form the former ABT-Mitteilungen will be continued, now that the Arbeitsstelle für Bibliothekstechnik has been transferred to the DBI is something I do not yet know. They represented an important publishing vehicle for research projects in which data processing played a part.

The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, which is as you know limited to conducting library research in the field of academic, research and special libraries, has for many years past supported numerous projects and has made known the results of such research in a wide variety of places. The 'Bibliotheksdienst' and the 'Zeitschrift für Bibliothekswesen und Bibliographie' constantly include reports on projects which have been approved by the main board of the DFg. At the annual meetings of the librarians' groups, lectures are given on these projects, the lectures being later documented in the 'Sonderheften' of the 'Zeitschrift für Bibliothekswesen und Bibliographie'. Nevertheless at this point one concern should not be overlooked: before publication the Subcommittee on Library Research within the Library Board of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft has to be involved and this Subcommittee must give its approval. To some extent the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft is thus able to protect itself against the premature passing on of research findings. This can be beneficial but can also have a restrictive effect.

The Deutsche Bibliotheksverband (DBV) also exercises influence on library research in the Federal Republic of Germany. The chairmen of its various groups are also members of the advisory committee on the profession within the Deutsche Bibliotheksinstitut and thus are able to take part in deciding whether to implement or reject particular projects. In the same way - and this

is of interest for this paper - the Bibliotheksverband is involved in the publications of the Deutsche Bibliotheksinstitut.

The Verein Deutscher Bibliothekare, which for many decades has been the driving force behind developments in academic, and special librarianship in Germany, is now restricting its activities to investigating questions about professional education and training, and problems over evaluating library work, personnel structures and legal matters. Its mouthpiece is the 'Zeitschrift für Bibliothekswesen und Bibliographie'.

The various study groups represent as it were the bridge between research and practice. At their meetings, plans, projects and research findings are discussed and their practicability talked over.

Several publications dealing with library research owe their origins to the activities of individual contributors from various library schools; nevertheless such publications remain the exception as teaching duties only allow for limited amounts of one's own research work to be undertaken. The Institute for Library Training at the Free University Berlin is an exception here as it is working on two projects at the moment

- an integrated concept of education in the fields of 'Librarianship, Information Science and Documentation' (FIABID) and
- a research project on an integrated concept of education in the fields of 'Librarianship, Information Science and Documentation: part 2: a curriculum for basic training in data processing' (FIABID/DV).

The Institute is also working together with the University Library of the Technical University Berlin on a project entitled

- cost comparability in central university libraries.

On the other hand there are numerous projects which are being pursued by individual libraries as follows:

Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz Berlin

An index of law periodicals and serials to be found in selected libraries in the Federal Republic of Germany and West Berlin (VRZS).

Deutsche Bibliothek Frankfurt am Main (German National Library)

The establishing of a national centre for the Federal Republic of Germany and West Berlin within the framework of the International Serials Data Systems (ISDS) (ISDS/NC).

The development of new information services with especially high levels of topicality.

The cataloguing-in-publication project of the Deutsche Bibliothek (CIP).

A pilot study on the development of a general thesaurus for libraries using

Bayerische Staatsbibliothek München (Bavarian State Library)

Principals of bibliographic organisation

+ Survey of files containing the names of corporations.

+ Cataloguing the Ancient Sinai collection in the State Library.

Transliteration tables for libraries and documentation centres.

University of Bielefeld Library

The Bielefeld cataloguing system 2 (BIKAS 2)

+ Conversion of title entries in any part of a table of categories in a library (TRAFO).

An integrated system for library automation (IBAS).

Deutscher Bundestag, Verwaltung, Gruppe Datenverarbeitung in Bonn (Data Processing Group, Administrative Section, German Lower House of Parliament in Bonn).

A common thesaurus of the legislative bodies at national and regional levels. (PARTHES)

A documentation and information system for parliamentary materials (DIP).

Bundesminister des Innern, Bonn (Federal Interior Ministry, Bonn).

Concept for an integrated system of library cooperation for the most senior Government bodies and the Lower House of Parliament using computer techniques.

Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen (State and University Library of Göttingen.

Further development of the library (including converting the organisation, accessioning and cataloguing of periodicals from off-line working to on-line working; organising the Lower Saxony Periodicals Record (NZN); short title index of monographs.)

Stadt- und Universitätsbibliothek Frankfurt am Main (Municipal and University Library of Frankfurt).

+ Bibliography of irregular serial literature in linguistics (BUL-L).

Current contents in linguistics (CCL).

Non-conventional literature in linguistics

ISBN project

Union cataloguing of monographs (HEBIS-MON)

University of Constance Library

Information attitudes of users of academic libraries in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Bibliothek des Instituts für Weltwirtschaft Kiel (Library of the Institute for International Economics in Kiel).

The systematisation and structuring of subject terms in the library.

Lehrstuhl für Bibliothekswissenschaft der Universität zu Köln (Chair of Library Science at the University of Cologne).

A handbook on 'Professional education and practice for a career in information work'.

The following projects are being worked on at the present by the DBI in Berlin and the Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz

- general index of conference proceedings,
- corporate body file of the periodicals data bank,
- general index of periodicals and serials in libraries in the Federal Republic of Germany and West Berlin (GZS)
- index to periodicals in the state of Badenwürttemberg (BWZ).

Amongst others the following projects are now being looked after by the Deutsche Bibliotheksinstitut

- automation in libraries,
- union catalogue of maschine readable catalogue data for libraries in Germany,
- user attitudes in university libraries.

3. Modes of publication of research findings (and research projects)

After this brief review of the institutions, libraries and people concerned with library research, we should now turn our attention to how information on research projects and research findings is published.
A guide can be found in 'Forschungs- und Entwicklungsprojekte in der Informationswissenschaft 1978', compiled by B. Endres-Niggemeyer, and issued by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Dokumenatation e. V (German Society for Documentation). It also contains numerous library projects, is divided by subject groups and is indexed in four ways (by place, institution, personal name and subject). An indispensable survey.

We do not have a special bibliography of library research, although the 'Fachbibliographische Dienst' produced by the Deutsche Bibliotheksinstitut does contain relevant titles.

Nor are any abstracts produced, although they are being planned for inclusion in the periodical 'Bibliothek - Forschung und Praxis'. Their regular appearance can thus be counted on soon.

In the 'Zeitschrift für Bibliothekswesen und Bibliographie' for 1976 Hans-Albrecht Koch published a Report on Recent Developments. A continuation

1979.

The Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitäts-Bibliothek Göttingen (Lower Saxony State and University Library at Göttingen), which was entrusted by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft with the special collection of material on librarianship and the book in general, has issued an index of relevant periodicals and sends to interested libraries and institutions concerned with librarianship lists of newly acquired monographs.

But as outlined above it is not always easy to obtain information on how current projects are progressing. Reporting in periodicals is patchy and because of publishing delays in many instances it loses in topical value. The same is also true for self-contained publications, in which the subject and the course of the research, the results and final recommendations are all brought together.

Certainly the Research and Information Office (FORIST) - Information Centre 18 - planned as part of the Federal Government's programme for promoting information and documentation will include library research in its documentation of research projects. This information centre could acquire special importance for library research, as contrary to the documentation of the literature (which only retrospectively reflects research activity) this documentation of research projects should describe present and future work. Along with research already concluded it will also encompass current and planned projects. The criterion for inclusion should be that an application for assistance with the project has been made.

4. Optimum procedures

Thus we can see that much is happening and more is being planned. Clearly several things could be improved simply through agreements between project directors and the publishers or editors of the publications mentioned above. The publication of a literature guide on library research by the Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen - the central collecting library for material on librarianship in the Federal Republic of Germany- would also prove helpful. This guide should be a selective listing offering international coverage, appear quarterly and be produced in the simplest way possible. Library research is so important in determining future developments in librarianship that such a service could be of great practical value and could indeed prove cost saving.

The New Acquisitions Lists should be produced in subject order and provided with a yearly index.

The abstracts planned for the periodical 'Bibliothek - Forschung und Praxis' should provide international coverage. Although problems in individual countries are perhaps somewhat different, information on important foreign projects can help make your own work easier, keeping you from going astray, and in many instances perhaps even making the starting of another project unnecessary. What is crucial is that it should help you to work in a rational fashion, that is to say in this instance, that the national and international material which is of particular interest to libraries in the Federal Republic of Germany should be presented in the most concise form. In other countries a different selection would have to be made.

Progress Reports, which generally are restricted to dealing with one country, seem to me to be especially suited for optimising knowledge of the results of library research. For this reason they should also be translated into other languages and published in widely read periodicals. In certain instances such a translation could prove of greater value than many an 'original contribution'.

It is possible to imagine that Progress Reports from various countries in various languages (or translated into one of the international languages) could be brought together in one of the omnibus editions issued by IFLA which come out two or three times per year.

As soon as we start to come to grips with the subject of this paper it ~~very~~ quickly soon becomes clear that it possesses a national, a supranational and an international dimension.

What can and should happen at the national level must be decided by the representatives of the individual countries. In so doing one should not however overlook the comparative aspects and the benefits which could reslut from this.

Cooperation between countries where the conditions bear similarities (the supranational level) seems to me to be both self-evident and necessary in the interests of our libraries and above all our users.

It would be of the utmost use if the appropriate groups within IFLA were to discuss which international activities should be developed to help optimise the publication of library research findings.

I therefore propose the formation of a small working party within the Library Research Section. It should also include representatives of the Round Table of Library Periodical Editors.

The tasks of this working party should be

- to ascertain how library research findings are published in individual member countries

- to compile a catalogue of the various forms of publication at the national level
- to work out ways of cooperation at the supranational level
- international cooperation (including translation problems)
- to work out criteria for selecting publications for specific library groups, i.e. librarians in public libraries, academic libraries, medical libraries, art libraries etc.

This subject seems to me to be important enough to be discussed by IFLA. For today's library research is tomorrow's library practice.

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